A MOST PITHY

EXHORTATION

Delivered in an Eloquent

ORATION

To the watry

GENERATION

Aboard their Admirall at Graveſ-end.

By the Right Reverend, Mr *HUGH PETERS*, Doctor of the Chair for the famous Univerſitie of *Whitehall*, and Chaplain in ordinary to the High and Mighty K. *OLIVER*, the firſt of that name, as it was took, *verbatim*, in ſhort hand (when he delivered it)

By *Mercurius Pragmaticus.*

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A MOST PITHY EXHORTATION DELIVERED In an Eloquent Oration to the watry Generation aboard their Admirall at *GRAVES-END*, &c.

My true Trouts, as ever water wet,

I Have hungred and thirſted to lift up my voice like a Trumpet amongſt you, and to pour forth my ſpirit upon you; for ye are all fleſh, and that's frail; but I muſt teach your hands to war, and your fingers to fight: And that you may the better remember my words, I mean to force them in with a *malin-ſpike*, e'ne juſt as ye ſplice a Cable. I underſtand you are very willing already to undertake this great work; and the better to incourage ye, I intend to clear your conſciences of all ſcruples that may ſeem to hinder your cheerfulneſſe in the buſineſſe: Ye know, honeſt *barb*, I have been at *New-England*, and am not now to learn the difference between a dry Cabin, and a great ſtorm; for my own part, I had enough o'nt: I had caſt the platform of this bleſſed deliverance, which we now enjoy, in that ſanctified ſoyl, and could not reſt till I came home to put it in practice: Our work is now in the Finiſhers hands by Land, and now we muſt pin our faiths upon your ſhoulders for our Sea ſucceſſe; it behoves you therefore to ſtand to your tackling, for ye are to fight againſt principalities and powers: That Reprobate, RUPERT (to give the Devil his due) is able to fright ye all into an auger-hole; but bear up your heads ſtifly, do'nt ye run away like water-rats, ſtand to your peaſe-pottage luſtily, there's pork enough aboard to make brewis till ye eat and ſplit again:

'Twould make a mans teeth water to think of your good bouls of lob-lolly and fat poor-Jack upon fish-daies. But enough of this now to come to ye, as I told ye, having cleared this point, I mean to handle the second part of my division in the same tune: Ye know we have been long oppressed with that Arch-Traitor, the King (they may thank my Councel, or his head had been on to plot mischief against the Saints to this day) but I think we are rid of him now, I was fain to stablish the heart, and strengthen the hand of the cowardly Executioner, or else the Fellow had melted into Malignancy, for fear of that Scarcrow sentence, *Touch not mine Anointed*; but I hope tis better his head's of, then that this generation of *Prophets* should have had any harm. Blades, I think ye are sufficiently instructed in these state principles, I shall now come to ye in a word of commendations; I could have spoke a few Latin sentences to ye, that has all your good qualities stowed in a little room, but those was learnt in the time of Egyptian bondage, only to have fitted me for a cringing *Conformist*; and in this time of clear light and liberty, tis a language as detestable, as hard to be understood: I must therfore tell ye at length, in words issuing from a meek heart, that I love a tarpauling, for these four good qualities.

First, because they pray so fervently when they are in danger, though they swear as devoutly when the storm's over; and truly however it appears, they have the gift of the spirit in them, that they will take so much pains to pray at all.

Secondarily, as for their *Religion*, so for their honest dealings; for I never knew any man complain of them without a just cause, only the Custom-house-waiters have wink'd at many of their pretty passages between ship and shore.

Thirdly, for their ingenuity; for they are commonly as cunning horsons as can be, and can over-reach the Devil, or a Broker, the length of a *hawser*.

Fourthly, for their courage; for they'l do more mischief with one Demi-Culverin, then *Cromwel* can with a whole Troop of *Dragoons*; and one bottle of strong-waters will make a ships gang do more execution, then 100 fire-locks; they'l fight with all the Turks in Christendom, if they get them once between wind and water: I know lads, you cannot chuse but laugh to think what fine sport there will be betwixt you and the Princes ships, 'twill be bisket and beverage to you to be together by the ears with them, and then some

of

of ye may ſee the wonders of the deep: I could ſpeak nothing but ſquibs and crackers, fireworks and granadoes, murderers and braſſe baſſes, Cannons and confuſion to ye, to make ye in love with the thoughts of a ſea-fight (ſuch a one as I never ſaw, nor I hope never ſhall) but that I know y'had rather hav't, then hear on't: In the mean time, conſider with your ſelves, and take comfort in't, 'twill be a godlier ſea-fight then that between your Anceſtours and the Spaniſh Armado. You have all the pillars of truth to ſupport you in the Cauſe, and thoſe are as ſtrong as can be eſtabliſhed by Act of Parliament; and I hope you have more grace then to build your faith upon any other foundation; for the Scriptures, if they be not with us, they ſhall not ſeem to be againſt us; for I believe your Miniſters are not to learn how to ſtretch them home enough at ſea, as well as at land. Again conſider, but what ſtore of brave purchaſe there wil be inſtead of pay for you; for they ſay the Rebels are richly laden, and if you can but ſcape knocks, and come off with credit, I'le get the *Moderate Intelligencer* to canonize ye for brave fellows; and *Harry Walker* ſhal every Friday write your Admirals names in Hebrew, that their fames may be read backwards: For my own part, I am reſolved to take half a ſcore texts out of the volume of your victories, and preach whole pulpits ful of fire and ſmoke againſt your adverſaries, the wooden horſe Cavaliery enough to make a Church ſtink as bad as *Paul's* dores of horſe-piſſe. For your Admirals, they are all men of valour, and love to defie danger as little as you doe; only it wil not be fit that they ſhould hazard their perſons in the face of a fight; but it wil be more neceſſaay, that they go to Councel in the Hould, whilſt you buſtle above Decks: They are men of as good government as an Ordinance of Parliament can make them, and I hope you'l ſay, that can ſet all things to rights; or elſe how could we have hit the way hither? I am confident you cannot but love them for their ſakes that ſent them ye, and for my ſake that commend them to ye; and you know I do not uſe to praiſe honeſt men to their faces; they were begotten by the Army, created by the Parliament, and dub'd by the right reverend Committee of *Derby-houſe*, and I think all theſe are able to make four *ſea guls*: I doubt not but they'l uſe ye as wel as as they can find in their hearts; if ye corrupt them to run away with you, you may chance venture a neck-cracking together, if ere you be caught again. I think I have perſwaded you to obey every body that I think fit; and when you feel the fruits of my good councel

working, I make no queſtion but you'l remember me when you go down into your Kingdom: Yet know in the times when ſuperſtition and tyrannie raged like the raving of the waters, your conſciences were chain'd from flying into your faces, with two inſeparable links of Allegiance and Supremacy, and you groan'd under the heavy weight of thoſe oppreſſive burthens: Now ye are at eaſe, and have free liberty to ſwear to be true to no body; for indeed oaths are profane, and not fit for tender conſciences, that can brook any thing but obedience to their betters; a ſolemn engagement after the newelt faſhion, wil beſt become men of your reformed tempers, and that to be done without Book; for I know good letters are too hard for your diſcretion, only when they are delivered to you by word of mouth, you can ſwallow that wil ſtick by the ribs; for you are men of memory, or elſe how could ſo many Maſters and Mates chaulk out their obſervations for a whole voyage, without pen, ink, or paper? Pray ſend's news when y'are gone, whether ye ſink or ſwim. For your Wifes, I hope the Army are reſolved to take care that they ſhal not catch cold in your abſence; and for your goods that you make prize on, you muſt conſign them to your dear friends of the Admiralty, who intend to put them out at intereſt to increaſe a common ſtock againſt you come to fight with them. Now judge my Maſters, if you have not a gracious Parliament, and a charitable Army that intend to make the beſt of you, and your Wifes, that they can. I ſhall ſay no more in this particular, for I ſuppoſe you have faith enough in them to be ſaved harmleſſe by them: I ſhall only ſpeak a word or two to the wiſer ſort amongſt ye (which wil be enough a conſcience to make ye all run horn-mad to do miſchief) and that's this, Be ſure when you meet any of thoſe rogues, that you tack about, and get to lee-ward of them, and then you may pepper them with ſmal ſhot; I know the advantage of old, for a good device; for though I am now a freſh-water Chaplain, I can ſpit ſalt-water ſentences in your mouths, that will comfort your ſtomacks in a morning freſh and faſting, as wel as a diſh of burnt brandy-wine. For your ſhips, I think they are wel rigged, or the Devil's in them; y'have as good beer aboard, as ever wet whiſtle; Colonel *Pride* can give ye an account of more grains and hops ſpent in the brewing on't, then his belly will hold. For peaſe to your pork, all the hogs in *England* cannot feed upon better; and I think you love hogs ſhould feed as wel as you: or elſe how would ye have

pork

pork fat enough to make your mouths ladder on both ſides like a waſhing-boul? Your beef wil be ſo tender within this month you may ſtick it with a quil, or the murrin was in't; for I am ſure ſome of the Purvers for the Fleet went over hedge and ditch to pick and chooſe good Cattle, and ſometimes they found the Country-men had hid them in ditches and odd corners, and there they lay as ſtil as Loaches, for fear of being knockt o'th' head. For your bread, if there be not ſtore of maggots in't by this time, *Harry Scobel* ſhall draw up an Ordinance to ſet your Baker on the pillory; for you know the ſweeteſt Bisket wil fil your mouths ful of ſirrop, and fatten your kidneys: I think the Parliament has took as great care for your temporal food, as for your ſpiritual diet, or elſe they would ne're have ſent me hither to preach ſuch crums of comfort to ye; I hope you wil love them; if you cannot love them for Gods ſake, love them for my ſake; and if you cannot fight for them for their own ſakes, fight for your ſelves and be hang'd, ſo ye do good any way: I am ſure ye had never more need to look about ye, for there's few enough that takes any care for ye; your own wives are reſolved and ye be ſuch Cowards never to come, they'l ne're cry for ye, and your children wil have more grace then to own ye for Fathers, without ye prove your ſelves *Cromwel's* boyes, and come off gallantly. And now madcaps ſteer ſteady, ſtarboard, for if the Ruffins chaſe ye out of compaſſe, they'l make ſherks meat on ye; I would have ye pick Ocum enough, as you go out, for you'l have work enough to ſtop leaks if e're ye meet with your matches; and pray when ye lye in harbour, have your Fore-Caſtle clear, that ye may cut cable upon any occaſion, and then blow wind, run ſhip, one ſuit of ſails wil do more ſervice then twenty braſſe-pieces; I think you cannot ſay but I have ballanc't ye wel with good docrements, and caulk'd ye with good councels; and now 'tis time to turn you a drift; I have nothing more to ſay to ye, but charge ye to remember to pray to the Parliament to proſper your proceedings, and I'le give ye one of their laſt Declarations to uſe for a Service-Book; I hope this is Sermon enough for ye as long as ye live, if ye make a good uſe on't: And ſo fare as well as ye can, for we had as good part here, as in a worſe place; I hope to ſee ye again, if not in a better place,

yes

yet in another world; and so I leave you, I'le have this Speech printed and sent down to ye very shortly, that ye may con it as perfect as your compasse, and then I shall be with you in spirit, though I be absent in the flesh.

Copia vera, concordans Originale.

FINIS.

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